

Bible Stories for Adults

Isaiah Prophecies About Jesus - Humiliation

Isaiah

Opening

Gathering: Give examples of people you have seen who have displayed Christ's humility in their lives.

Today's Focus: Hundreds of years before Jesus came, God revealed through His prophets how He would humble Himself by sending His Son in the form of a despised man.

Key Verses: *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.*
Isaiah 53:3

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Role of God's Prophets (*2 Kings 17*)

What did God require of the kings of His people?

1 Kings 11:37-38 = Walk in my ways and follow my statutes and I will bless you

How faithful were the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom?

2 Kings 17:21-22 = They persisted in the sins of Jeroboam

How faithful was Judah, the southern kingdom?

2 Kings 17:19 = Judah *followed the practices Israel had introduced*

Did God give up on the people immediately after Jeroboam turned them away?

2 Kings 17:13-14 = No, He sent prophets to Israel and Judah to turn them back to Him

The Prophet's Message (*Isaiah 1*)

How did Isaiah begin his ministry? = Prophesied to Judah during Assyrian conquest of Israel (Is 1:1)

Isaiah 1:2-4 = Tells the problem: God's kids had rebelled and turned their backs on Him

Hadn't God tried to discipline them and turn them back to Him?

Isaiah 1:5-6 = Yes, but they still *persisted in rebellion*, completely diseased with sin

What was the problem? Were the Jews not religious enough? = We're not just to go thru the motions

Isaiah 1:11-14 = He detested their meaningless worship rituals for the sake of religion

What did God want?

Isaiah 1:16-17 = Live in righteousness, not evil

How could they become righteous? What about their guilt of past evils?

Isaiah 1:18 = God would forgive them

What would happen if the people didn't return to God?

Isaiah 1:19-20 = *you will be devoured by the sword*

Knowing that the Jews would not repent and return, what did God say He would do?

Isaiah 1:21, 25 = He would specially discipline them to purify them

What hope would the Jews have after they were punished with exile?

Isaiah 1:26 = They would be restored and would live in Righteousness

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The Righteous King (*Isaiah 11*)

- How would the Jews know when this time of restoration and righteousness begins?
Isaiah 7:14 = *The virgin will...give birth to a son, and will call him "God with us"*
- How would the news get out to everyone?
Isaiah 40:3-5 = A messenger would come and prepare the way, all mankind would hear
- What did Isaiah tell them about this child?
Isaiah 9:6-7 = He would be a great and righteous ruler and would reign forever
- What kind of a king would this child become?
Isaiah 11:1-5 = A righteous and faithful king like David, even better
- What would this great king mean for Israel?
Isaiah 11:10, 12 = Exiles would return, the world would rally around
- Why would the rest of the world rally around Israel? = Jews see world peace based in Israel
Isaiah 49:6 = This king would save not only Israel, but the whole world
- How peaceful would things be under this king?
Isaiah 11:6-9 = All of creation would be at peace - *The wolf will live with the lamb*

The Righteous Servant (*Isaiah 50:4-9*)

- Why would this king be so successful?
Isaiah 42:1 = He would be a servant to the Lord, God would be with him
- How did this relate to Israel's original calling?
Isaiah 41:8-9 = God had called Israel to be His servant
- How obedient would this chosen servant be?
Isaiah 50:4-7 = He would stand faithful even to beating, mocking, spitting, accusations
- Isaiah's Four Servant Songs
- . Isaiah 42:1-7 = Here is my servant, my chosen, he will establish justice on earth
 - . Isaiah 49:1-6 = It isn't enough to restore Israel, also save the whole world
 - . Isaiah 50:4-9 = Offer my back to be beaten, my cheeks to pull out my beard
 - . Isaiah 52:13-53:12 = He was despised, rejected, bore our sins, suffered to save many
- While the Jews misunderstood what Isaiah described, how well did Isaiah understand?
1 Peter 1:10-12 = He didn't, he also longed to understand.

The Doubter's Chapter (*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

- Isaiah's fourth servant song (52:13-53:12) points directly to Jesus
It can convince Jews that Jesus is the promised Messiah - Called *The Doubter's Chapter*
- How did Isaiah begin his fourth servant song that accurately described Jesus?
Isaiah 52:13 = *He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted*
- How was Jesus highly exalted? = Raised and lifted on cross; From grave, into heaven
Philippians 2:9 = *God exalted Him to the highest place*
- How did Isaiah's next verse confuse the Jews' picture of this great king?
Isaiah 52:14 = *Many were appalled at him - his appearance was so disfigured*
- How did this describe Jesus?
Mark 14:65; 15:17-19 = He was whipped, beaten, crown of thorns, hit on head

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The Doubter's Chapter (*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

How would this king save the whole world? = Priests sprinkled sacrifice blood on people for atonement

Isaiah 52:15 = He would bring nations to God and make atonement for them

How did this reference to the sprinkling of blood of the atoning sacrifice point to Jesus?

1 Peter 1:2 = Jesus was the ultimate atoning sacrifice and sprinkled His blood on us

What other sprinkling did Jesus bring to us?

Hebrews 10:22 = The waters of baptism

How would the servant's message of salvation be accepted?

Isaiah 53:1 = People wouldn't believe what would be revealed to them

How was this fulfilled with Jesus?

John 12:37-38 = The Jews didn't believe in Jesus, despite his miraculous signs

Would this great king look like a great king?

Isaiah 53:2 = *He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him*

Didn't Jesus attract people by His greatness wherever He went?

Matthew 13:54-57 = No, He was rejected in His hometown, People came for message

Besides his looks, how well would this great king of the Jews be accepted by people?

Isaiah 53:3 = He'd be *despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and suffering*

How clearly was Jesus despised and rejected by men?

Mark 15:29-32 = He was mocked and insulted while being crucified

Although despised and rejected, what would this servant do for mankind?

Isaiah 53:4a = He would take away our pains and troubles

How did Jesus take away pains and troubles?

Matthew 8:16-17 = He drove out demons and healed the sick

How would this servant be supported by God during his thankless work for mankind?

Isaiah 53:4b = *We considered him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted*

How was this played out in Jesus?

Matthew 27:43, 46 = Let God save him ... *My God, why have you forsaken me?*

Why would God strike, smite and afflict this great servant?

Isaiah 53:5a = *He was pierced for our transgressions...crushed for our iniquities*

How directly was this fulfilled by Jesus?

John 19:33-37 = He was pierced by the soldiers to make sure He was dead

Would the servant do this because mankind would be so deserving?

Isaiah 53:5b-6 = Man turned his own way like sheep; by his wounds we are healed

How did Peter explain that this was fulfilled by Jesus?

1 Peter 2:24-25 = He quoted from these verses to show how Jesus died for our sins

How willingly would this servant go through this suffering?

Isaiah 53:7 = He wouldn't even defend himself, like a lamb to the slaughter

Did Jesus fit this description?

Matthew 27:12-14 = He gave no answer to the accusations thrown at Him

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The Doubter's Chapter (*Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

Would people recognize what was happening when this was carried out?

Isaiah 53:8 = Read footnote translation - Who considered that he was their substitute?

How was Jesus our substitute?

2 Corinthians 5:21 = *God made Him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us*

How would this great king be treated in his death? = Hebrew wordplay associates rich with wicked

Isaiah 53:9 = *He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich*

How did this describe Jesus?

Matthew 27:57-60 = He was buried in the fresh grave of rich Joseph of Arimathea

Why would this servant go through all of this suffering?

Isaiah 53:10-11 = *He will see the light of life and be satisfied that he justified many*

How did Jesus see the light of life?

Matthew 28:6 = He rose from death

How does knowledge of this justify many?

Romans 10:9 = If you believe Jesus is Lord and that He died and rose, you will be saved

How does Isaiah summarize his song on the suffering servant?

Isaiah 53:12 = He was numbered with sinners and bore their sins

How was Jesus numbered with the transgressors?

Mark 15:27-28 = He was given a criminal's death with robbers on each side

Besides being forever thankful of what Jesus did for us, what should we learn from this?

Philippians 2:5-8 = *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ... humility*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How often can I say that my attitude has been the same as that of Christ Jesus?
(*Philippians 2:5; Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Corinthians 4:15-17; 11:1; Hebrews 6:10-12; 1 Peter 2:20-23; 3 John 9-10*)
2. When have I tried to take the place of God or acted like I was in charge of things that only God controls?
(*Philippians 2:6; Genesis 50:19; Job 38:1-42:6; Romans 12:18-19; 1 Corinthians 10:3*)
3. What are some examples of when I have humbled myself?
(*Philippians 2:1-4, 7-8; Isaiah 66:2b; Matthew 6:1-18; Luke 6:27-36; 14:7-14; James 3:13; 4:10*)
4. In what ways do I take the very nature of a servant?
(*Philippians 2:7; Joshua 24:14-15; Job 1:8; Matthew 20:25-28; Luke 16:13; 22:24-27; John 13:1-17; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)
5. Is my faith strong enough to withstand the threat of death?
(*Philippians 2:8; Matthew 16:24-28; John 16:33; Acts 7:54-60; 14:21-22; Romans 8:28-39; Philippians 1:20-24; 2 Timothy 3:12*)